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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer Of Health

FOR THE

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT

1937

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.

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Ledbury Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

LEO FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerk :

P. G. HANCOX.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY OFFICES,
ALTON STREET,
ROSS-ON-WYE.

TELEPHONE—Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector :

E. E. JORDAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant :

E. G. WATKINS.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SOUTHEND,
LEDBURY.

TELEPHONE—Ledbury 130.

Ledbury Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY OFFICES,
ALTON STREET,
ROSS-ON-WYE.

June, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ledbury Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector for the same period.

Substantial progress has been made during the year in housing matters and the incidence of infectious disease in the district has been low.

It is a matter of sincere regret to me personally that this is my last Annual Report and I wish to express my appreciation of the unfailing support and co-operation which I have received from the Council and my fellow officials during my four years of office.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LEO FAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

SECTION A. : STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) : 49,867.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937 :
8,323.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate
Books : 2,338.

Rateable Value : £31,214.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £135 13s. 5d.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	114	52	62	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14.4
	Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Stillbirths	... ..	1	—	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births): 8.26
Deaths	... ..	109	55	54	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popu- lation—Crude 13.1 Modified by the Areal Comparability Factor (0.79) : 10.3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(HEADINGS 29 AND 30 OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST) :				Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (live and still) births.
No. 29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	Nil.
No. 30	Other Puerperal causes	...	...	Nil.
Total	...	...	...	Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	92
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	96
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	9
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil.

SECTION B. : GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These remain unchanged. Bacteriological examinations and clinical analyses, with few exceptions, are carried out by Dr. Lowe, at the County Laboratory, Hereford. The following are the number for the year :—

Swabs examined for Diphtheria germ	44
Sputa	8
Blood	3
Pus	1

Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is now available. It is maintained by the voluntary services of the Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Nursing in the Home.

Arrangements for nursing remain substantially the same as in preceding years. There are no arrangements for nursing infectious diseases in the home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare—run by a Voluntary Committee—is held on alternate Tuesday afternoons at the Parish Room, Ledbury. The records shew an average attendance of 44 per session during 1937.

Colwall Maternity and Child Welfare, which is held on alternate Wednesday afternoons, and serves a widely scattered district, shewed an average attendance of 14 per session during 1937.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held on alternate Tuesdays at Homend Lodge Cottages, Ledbury.

Cases of Venereal Disease are referred to the Clinic at Hereford.

The Voluntary Orthopædic Clinic is held fortnightly at the Parish Room, Ledbury. Suitable cases are treated at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry, in which the County Council retain four beds. The Hereford Clinic is the parent Clinic, which prescribes treatment to be carried out at the Ledbury Clinic.

Hospitals.

Non-infectious cases are treated at the Ledbury Cottage Hospital. X-Ray facilities at this hospital have recently been extended. There is also a small Infirmary attached to the Public Assistance Institution.

SECTION C. : SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

During the year, 71 samples were examined either in respect of new houses or for suspected contamination. 34 samples were submitted to chemical examination, of which number, 17 proved to be satisfactory and 17 otherwise, whilst 37 samples were submitted to bacteriological examination shewing 12 to be satisfactory and 25 otherwise.

In 1937 the laboratory facilities provided by the County Council of Hereford were extended and it is now possible for all water samples to be analysed bacteriologically as well as chemically. The above results shew the need for a constant supervision of all public wells and it would appear that there is much work to be done in this connection.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, 44 house drains have been laid or relaid and 10 drains or sanitary fittings were repaired. Colwall is the only place in the district where a sewage disposal works is necessary and it is satisfactory to note that the Council have now called in a consulting engineer to advise the best manner of making the existing works more adequate.

Rivers and Streams.

Complaints have been received of the pollution of a brook by the Colwall Sewage effluent and it is anticipated that measures will be taken to meet the complaints.

Closet Accommodation.

During 1937, 21 water closets were provided and three were connected to the sewer. Ten privies were converted into pail closets and fourteen privies were converted into water closets.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of house refuse at Colwall proceeds satisfactorily. There are repeated requests for the collection of indestructible waste but in every case the parishes are not prepared to face the very heavy cost involved.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See the Tabular Statement of the Sanitary Inspector herewith appended.

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, has not been put into operation in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

The problem does not arise.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two privately owned swimming pools open to the public, both situated at Colwall and in each case adequate purification plant is installed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was necessary.

Schools.

Improvements are made each year in general sanitary conditions. During the year twelve schools in the district were closed on account of illness :—

School Closures.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Yarkhill	6/1/37—29/1/37	Measles.
Eastnor	22/1/37—5/2/37	Influenza.
Wellington Heath Infants ...	27/1/37—5/2/37	Influenza.
Wellington Heath Hope End	27/1/37—5/2/37	Influenza.
Putley	28/1/37—5/2/37	Influenza.
Ashperton & Canon Frome ...	1/2/37—12/2/37	Influenza.
Much Marcle	1/2/37—12/2/37	Influenza.
Bosbury Boys... ..	9/2/37—19/2/37	Influenza.
Bosbury Girls & Infants ...	15/2/37—19/2/37	Influenza.
Mathon	1/3/37—5/3/37	Influenza.
Tarrington	9/3/37—26/3/37	Measles.
Bosbury Girls & Infants ...	4/6/37— 18/6/37	Mumps.
Wellington Heath Infants ...	7/6/37—25/6/37	Measles & Mumps.
Wellington Heath Hope End	12/7/37—28/7/37	Measles.
Ashperton & Canon Frome ...	19/7/37—6/8/37	Measles.
Woolhope	21/12/37—23/12/37	Mumps.

Hop-Pickers' Quarters.

Judging by the reduction of complaints by Education Authorities in the Black Country and elsewhere, it would appear that these authorities have now realised that, with rare exceptions, the accommodation provided by the hop growers for the pickers is satisfactory and that most of the objectionable features found in the camps are due to the peculiar habits of the pickers themselves. The new model byelaws came into operation too late to have much effect during 1937 but it is anticipated that they will strengthen the hand of the Health Officers in dealing with the odd case of a grower who does not realise his obligations.

There are 78 farms in the district employing resident pickers.

SECTION D. : HOUSING.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 328 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 389 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 420 |

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	473
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	22
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	14
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	13
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	37
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	37
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	221

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 12
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 68
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil.

Sixteen houses were made fit for habitation as a result of action by the Council, and seven houses were demolished during 1937. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 14 houses, and 47 new houses in various parishes are in course of erection.

The good work done under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 was continued during 1937 as will be seen by the following figures :—

	<i>Number of Houses Reconditioned.</i>			<i>Average Cost per House.</i>			<i>Average Grant per House.</i>			
1935—	23	...		£163	0	0	...	£85	0	0
1936—	18	...		£209	7	9	...	£92	13	6
1937—	23	...		£234	0	9	...	£96	17	5

As was anticipated, the rise in the cost of building materials during 1937 was reflected in the increased cost of reconditioning. This latter cost, however, still compares favourably with the cost of building new houses.

Overcrowding.

The number of houses overcrowded fell during 1937 from 37 to 25 but even this lower figure is unsatisfactory and misleading and it is hoped that the Council will take advantage of the generous terms offered in the new Housing Bill to build additional cottages irrespective of replacements caused by demolitions.

SECTION E.: INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are now 192 registered producers in the district and during 1937, 148 inspections of farms and dairies were made by the Sanitary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are five slaughterhouses in the district. They are all well constructed and kept in a satisfactory condition. 31 visits under the Meat Regulations were made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	45	17	28	88	64
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	4	—	12	2
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	8.89%	23.5	—	13.64%	3.1%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	5.9%	—	—	4.7%

SECTION F. : PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

With one exception, the incidence of infectious disease during 1937 was low and calls for no special comment. Six cases were admitted to Stretton Sugwas Isolation Hospital at an average cost of £16 5s. 6d. which is equivalent to a weekly charge of £2 18s. 0d.

An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at a private school in Colwall accounted for 29 cases. As is usual in this type of dysentery, the cases were mild and although the origin of the outbreak was not discovered, the measures taken in conjunction with the Medical Officer of the school resulted in a speedy termination of the outbreak.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1937.

DISEASE.	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	2	—
Diphtheria ...	4	3	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—
Sonne Dysentery ...	29	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	1	1

Analysis of Total Notified Cases According to Age.

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.												Totals.
	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over.	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	4	25	—	—	—	—	—	29
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	1	—	6	26	4	4	—	2	—	42

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1936, there were 18 cases of tuberculosis on the Register. During the year, 8 fresh cases were notified (6 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary) and 5 cases were removed on account of death, recovery or change of residence, leaving 21 cases on the Register at the end of 1937.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15— ...	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25— ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	3	1	1	2	—	—	—

Causes of Death.

CAUSE.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Influenza	7	3	10
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	—	2
Other tuberculosis	1	—	1
Cancer	6	3	9
Diabetes	—	1	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage	4	3	7
Heart disease	7	17	24
Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	6	7
Appendicitis	2	—	2
Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	3	—	3
Congenital debility, Premature birth, &c. ...	4	6	10
Senility	3	4	7
Suicide	1	—	1
Other violence	4	3	7
Other defined diseases	5	5	10
ALL CAUSES	55	54	109

TABULAR STATEMENT furnished by the SANITARY INSPECTOR under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

INSPECTIONS UNDER—	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices Served.	Statutory Notices Served.	Notices Complied with.
Housing Regulations...	389	14	1	10
Workshops	27	6	—	5
Dairies & Cowsheds ...	148	4	—	3
Hop-pickers' Quarters	178	12	—	12
Bakehouses	26	5	—	4
Slaughterhouses	31	—	—	—
Schools	3	—	—	—
Water Supplies	71	35	—	34
Infectious Diseases ...	13	—	—	—
Nuisances	42	16	3	19

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK PERFORMED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases enquired into .. ..	..	..	..	10
Patients removed to Hospital .. ..	..	..	..	3
Houses disinfected and cleansed .. ..	..	..	..	7

HOUSES.

Erected .. ..	..	..	..	19
Cleansed and limewashed .. ..	..	..	..	7

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells sunk	..	..	..	..	11
Wells cleansed and repaired	..	..	..	..	21
Wells closed	..	..	..	..	1
Samples of water sent for analysis	..	..	..	..	67
Houses supplied from Water-works	..	..	..	..	2

HOUSE DRAINS.

Laid or relaid	..	..	..	..	44
Cleansed, trapped and ventilated	..	..	..	..	5
Defective waste pipes rectified	..	..	..	..	6
Insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	..	..	..	..	8
Dumb wells rectified	..	..	..	..	1
Drains and sanitary fittings repaired	..	..	..	..	10

NEW BUILDINGS.

Inspections under Byelaws	87
---------------------------	----	----	----	----	----

WATER CLOSETS.

Connected to sewer	..	..	..	..	3
Provided	..	..	..	..	21

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number on Register	..	..	..	..	5
Number of Visits under Meat Regulations	..	..	..	..	31

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

On Register	..	..	..	..	192
Number of Inspections	..	..	..	..	148

CLERICAL WORK.

Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	92
Formal Notices served	..	..	..	..	4
Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	87
Notices outstanding	..	..	..	..	5

E. E. JORDAN,
Sanitary Inspector.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
LEDBURY.

